

May 11, 2012

Weekly Views

A production crew from Plum Pictures Ltd out of London finished their first week of filming at the Indiana State Prison for a two-part TV documentary series about the facility. The documentary will feature both staff and offenders and will give the audience insight into the day-to-day operations of a maximum security prison, as a community. They are expected to return June 4, 2012 for an additional week of filming. The host of the show is Sir Trevor McDonald, a highly respected British broadcast journalist. The documentary will be broadcast in primetime on ITV1, the UK's highest-rated commercial channel.

The Indiana Department of Correction was well represented at the Governor's Public Service Achievement Awards Ceremony in the statehouse. Among those honored from IDOC were Mike Callahan who received an individual award for his work instituting green practices throughout the Department; the Indiana SAVIN team of Jan Tyree, Laura Walker, Tom Lucas, and Brent Myers for improving the victim notification process and reducing costs through more efficient and accurate notification; Dushan Zatecky, Mark Olson, Julie Haynes, Linda Barker, Matthew Eby, and Jason Fedeler for their work with the new IDOC Operations Center to streamline all emergency information to a central location and distribute to appropriate staff for a quick and effective response; and Mark Sevier and Mike Herron along with the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired for their partnership through the Miami Accessible Media Program, saving taxpayer dollars while providing jobs for offenders both in and out of the correctional facility.

Madison Correctional Facility and Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility participated as a satellite team in the 21st Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Offenders in the ADOPT (A Dog on Prison Turf) program along with their dogs and employees from both facilities completed a 5K walk around the grounds. Members of MCU's sewing program made quilts and a bag that was auctioned off to raise money for the event. Staff raised a total of \$148.75 and the offenders raised \$162.

Reporter Amanda Matlock of the Pendleton-Lapel Times-Post Newspaper visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to interview Re-Entry Staff relative to the many ways offenders and employees give back to the community. Ms. Matlock will return in a few days to interview offenders and compile information for the purpose of doing a story on offender organizations that participate in community service activities and projects.



A bit of the Down Under graced the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility as Australian native Tashka Renouf toured the facility, part of a Terre Haute Rotary Club exchange program. "Tash," a social worker, had specific interest in offender mental health care and asked lots of questions of Corizon psychologist Dr. Brad Huffy. (see photo left)

Linda Commons, Pendleton Juvenile Superintendent, announced the promotion of Officer Gerald MacMurray to Lead Instructor of the Future Soldiers Program. Mr. MacMurray stated "I hope to continue the improvements of this successful program."

Public Information Officer Mark Baker and Training Officer James Young with the Michigan City Fire Department visited Camp Summit Boot Camp for a career day presentation to students. They spoke about and demonstrated the requirements for and the job of a career firefighter. The firefighters brought a full firefighter's suit which they explained had to be put on in 90 seconds. As part of Camp Summit's education program, Civic leaders are invited to discuss various aspects of their jobs. Camp Summit staffer Rachel McLane coordinates the program. (see photo right)

After nearly 40 years with the Department, Ralph "Pete" Taylor has decided to retire. He has provided invaluable service not only to the Department and facility as Safety/Hazard Manager, but also 20 years as Fire Chief for the Van Buren Township Volunteer Fire Department. A celebration was held to honor Pete for his service and dedication to the Department. Congratulations and good luck Pete!

A Volunteer Banquet was held at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. Approximately 30 volunteers attended the banquet. Venture Scout students performed a skit for the volunteers, a student and volunteer performed a song together, and Lois Hudson, Religious Services Administrative Assistant, read a poem. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a meal prepared and served by the Culinary Arts students and teacher.



Seventeen Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility (IREF) residents, together with their spouses or longtime significant others, participated in a Prevention Rehabilitation Enhancement Program (PREP) seminar, a full-day workshop designed to teach IREF participants to build trust, find solutions, and develop positive and healthy communication skills.